

Name

Date



Allergy is the most common cause of skin irritation.

The feet, sides, face and ears are most often affected, but any part of the body can be involved. Allergy is usually lifelong. We can't cure it but we can control it well in most cases. Allergic dermatitis is often complicated by fleas, mites, lice, bacteria, fungal infections, poor quality diet, hormonal disorders, diabetes, anaemia, and even emotional problems.

FULL INVESTIGATION into the cause of the skin irritation.

This can be expensive but will lead to more accurate and effective treatment.

- 1) **Blood Biochemistry, Haematology and Thyroid tests** can check for underlying causes of skin disease such as underactive thyroid, diabetes, liver disease etc.
- 2) **Blood Tests to Identify "Allergens"** - these tests can often detect the likely cause of the allergy such as flea bite allergy, house mites, food allergy, pollen etc.
- 3) **Skin Biopsies** - often the most effective way of finding the cause of skin disease particularly when there is more than one cause of the problem.

TREATMENT - often all of the following are required.

1) Anti-Inflammatory Medications

Regular 6 - 8 weekly injections of Depomedrone, or as required if seasonal.

Severe cases may need daily use of Atopica capsules (cyclosporine)

2) "Stronghold" Spot-On every month - all year round. Stronghold destroys (and protects from) fleas, lice and mange. This eliminates most skin parasites. It also kills toxocara roundworms making it an ideal routine treatment for pets that live with children. Use **"Indorex" spray** round the house every 6 months to keep your home clear of fleas and reduce the number of house mites.

3) Shampoo Regularly with "Malaseb"

Malaseb is a very effective prescription shampoo that kills off bacterial and fungal infections of the skin surface. Use weekly for best results. Soak well in water first, work up a good lather, leave on for 10 min. then rinse off.

4) Antibiotics - Bacterial infection is a common complication of allergic skin disease. If the skin is crusty or "spotty" then a course of antibiotic is usually needed.

5) Good Nutrition and use of the correct oil supplementation

Top quality "Sensitivity Control" diets provide the best nutrition and help eliminate dietary causes of allergic skin disease.

"Viacutan"(oil supplement) - High quality oils improve skin and coat condition and make the body more resistant to allergies.